



THE WALKING DEAD™

30

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IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING

DEAD™

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CHARLIE ADLARD

Penciler, Inker, Cover

CLIFF RATHBURN

Gray Tones, Cover Colors, Back Cover

RUS WOOTON

Letterer

Previously:

Rick's hand has been severed. Michonne is being raped and tortured. Coming to Woodbury has turned out to be the gravest mistake Rick has made thus far. Rick has just been informed--Glenn has talked, told them everything about the prison they came from--and now he's being followed right back to it. It appears the darkest days are still yet to come.

For Image Comics



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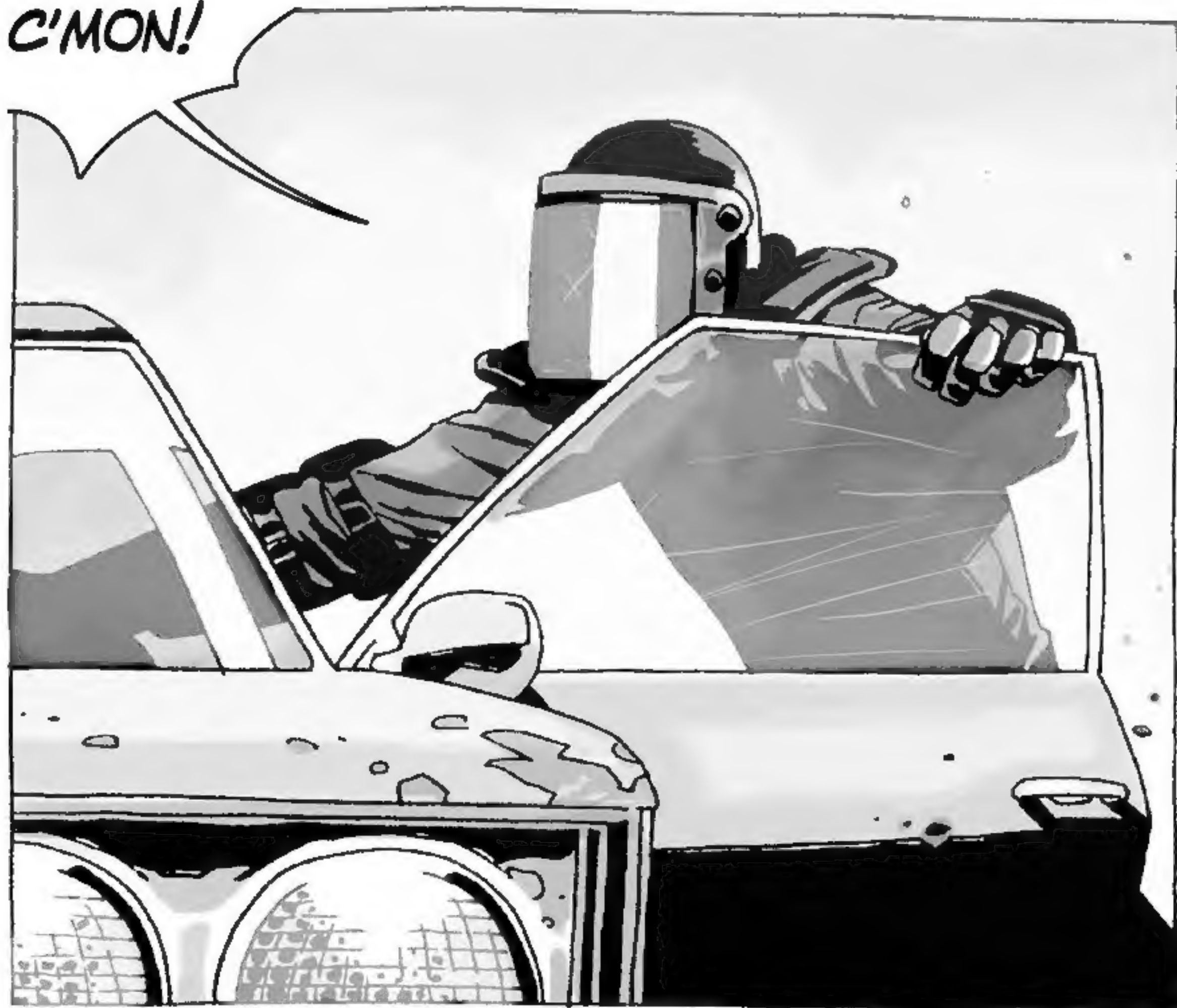
>HUFF<

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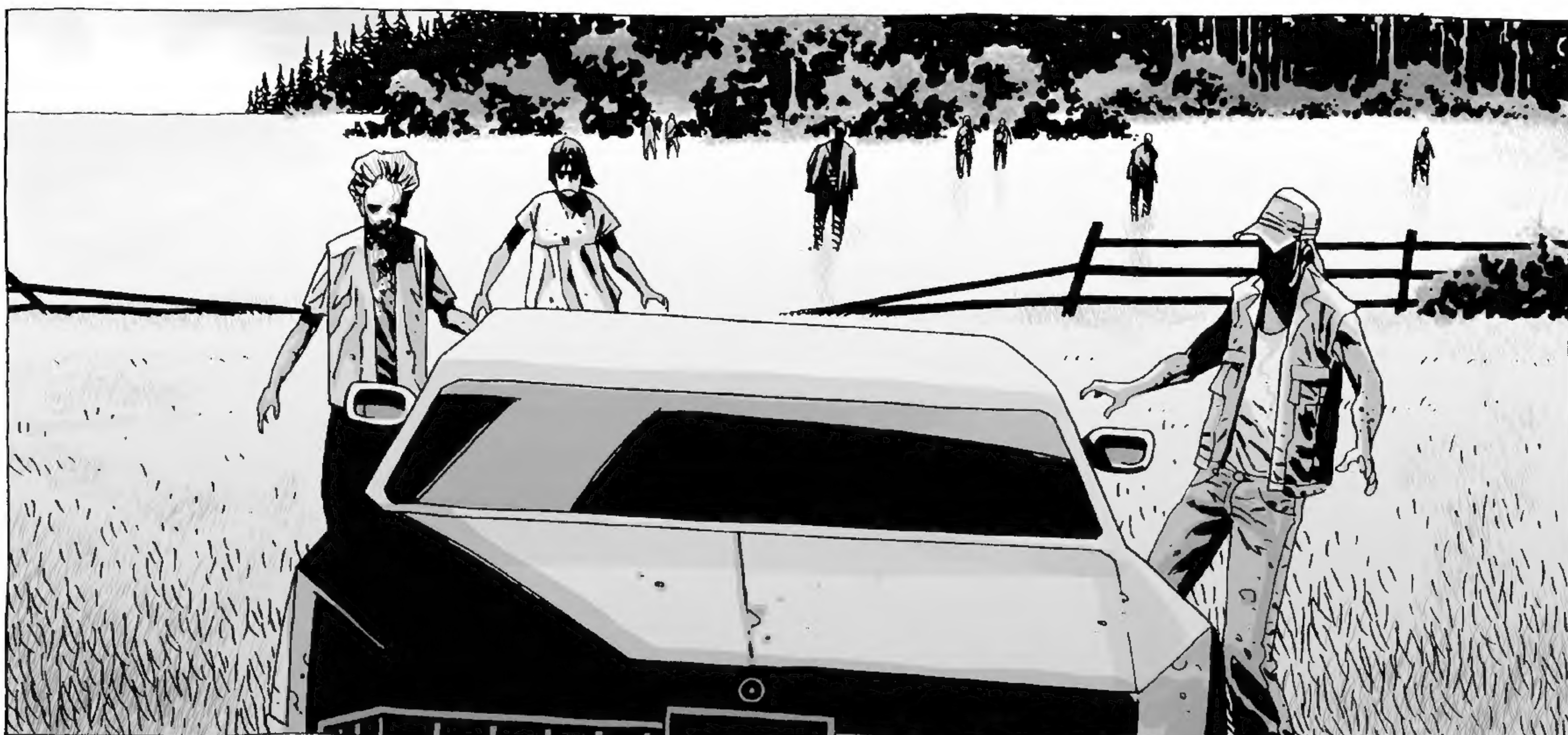
C'MON!

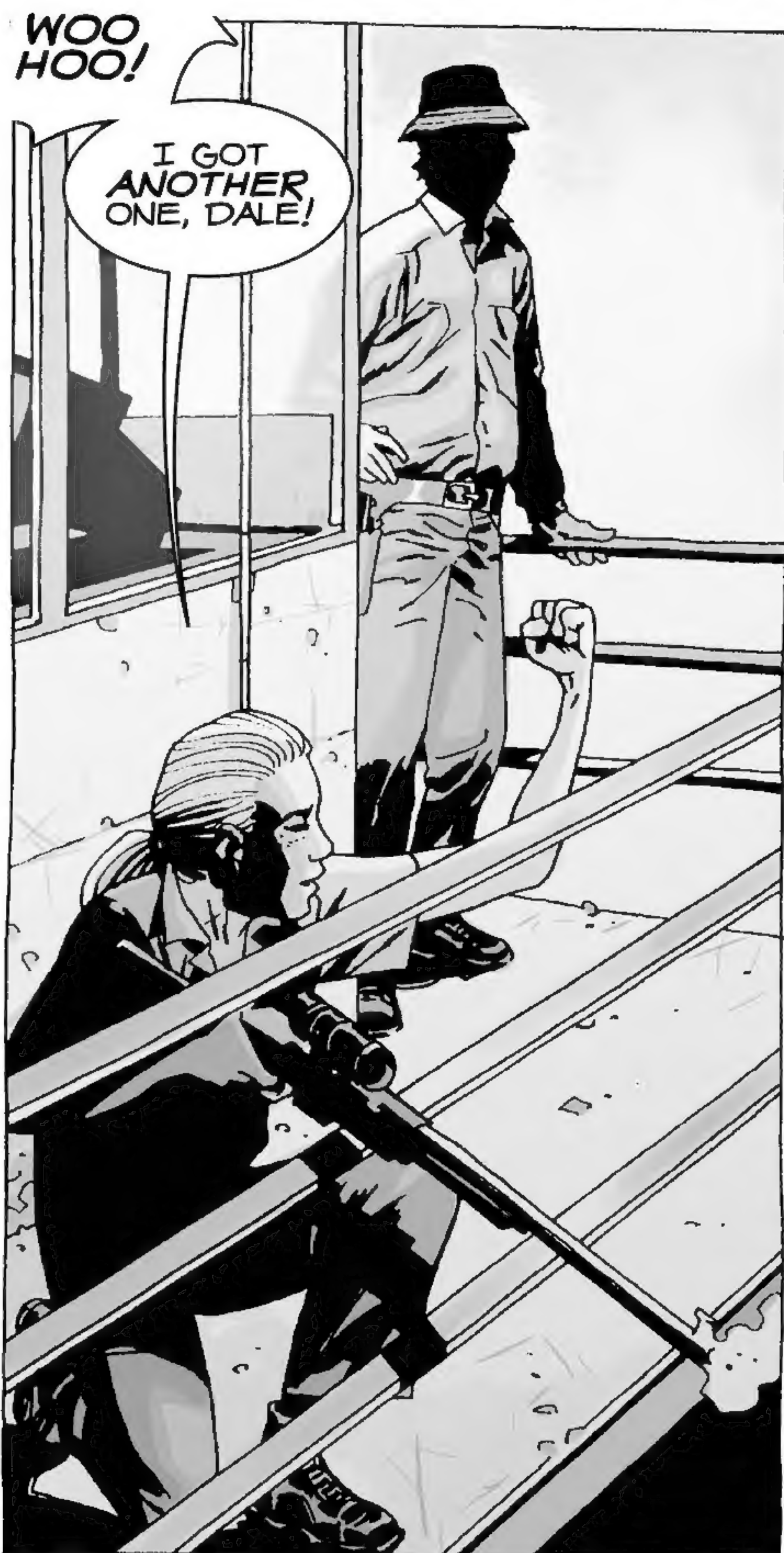
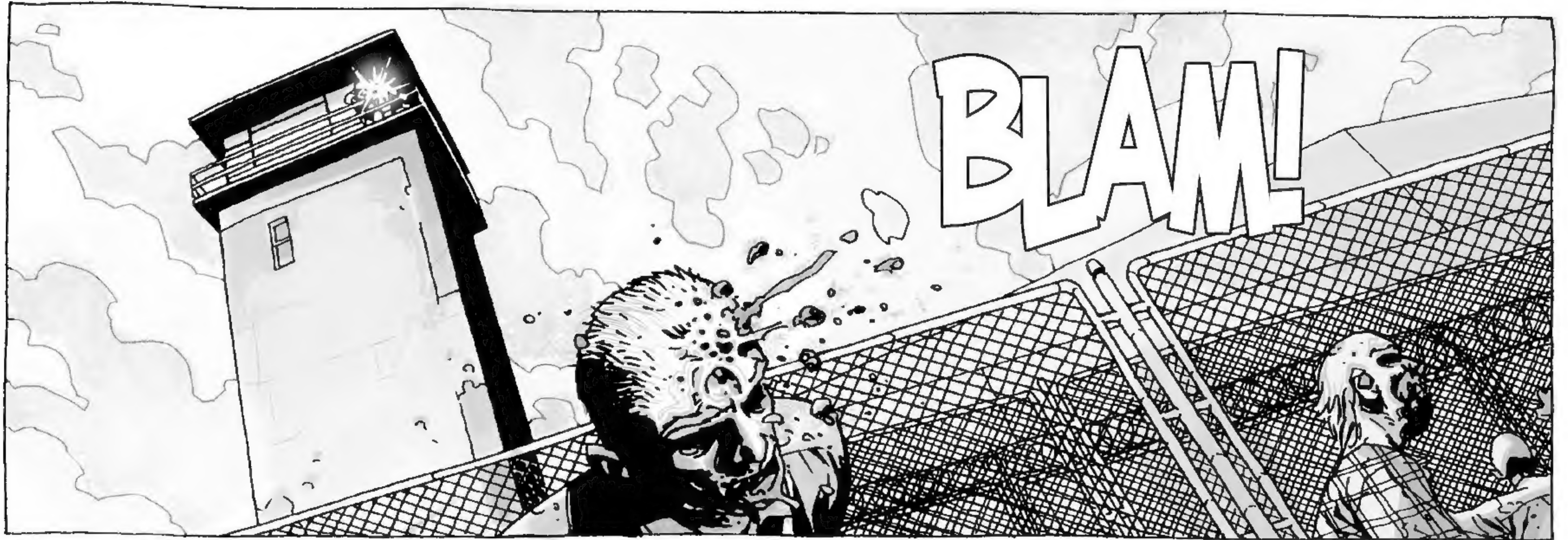


THANK
GOD!

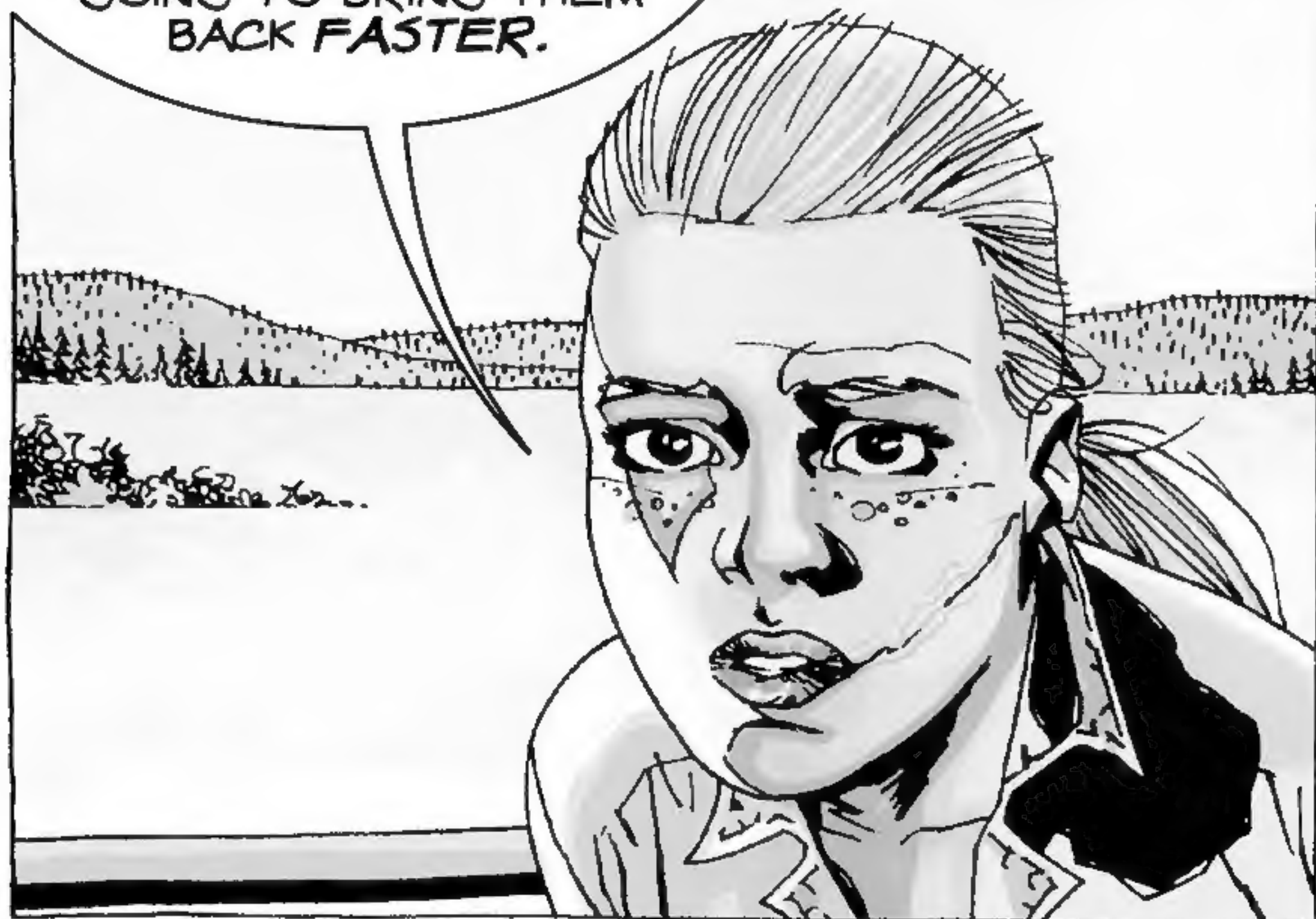


DAMN
IT!



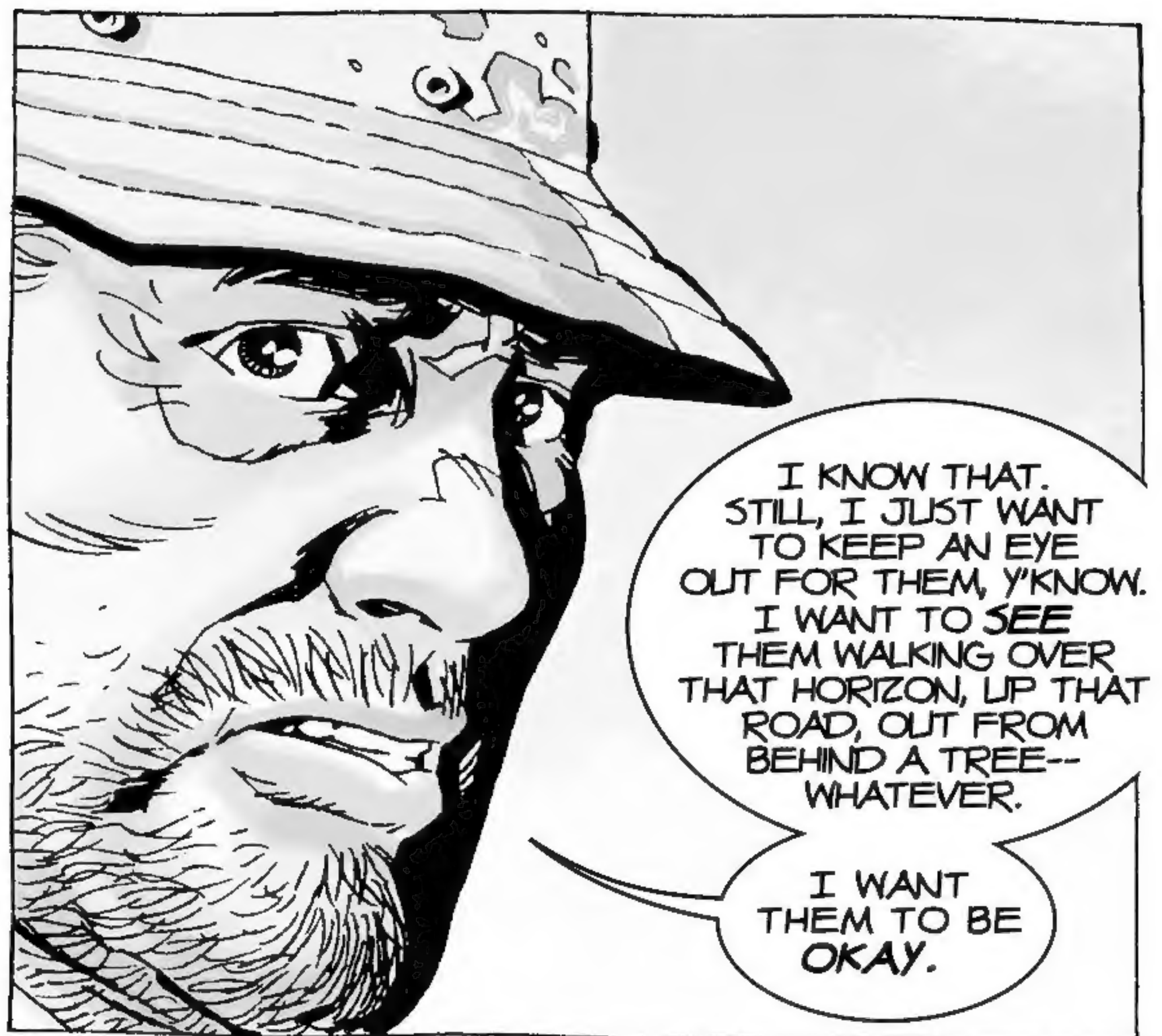


PLEASE, HONEY. THEY'RE EITHER GONNA COME BACK, OR THEY'RE NOT. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEM, TOO, I AM, BUT WATCHING THE HORIZON ALL DAY ISN'T GOING TO BRING THEM BACK FASTER.



I KNOW THAT. STILL, I JUST WANT TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THEM, Y'KNOW. I WANT TO *SEE* THEM WALKING OVER THAT HORIZON, UP THAT ROAD, OUT FROM BEHIND A TREE-- WHATEVER.

I WANT THEM TO BE OKAY.

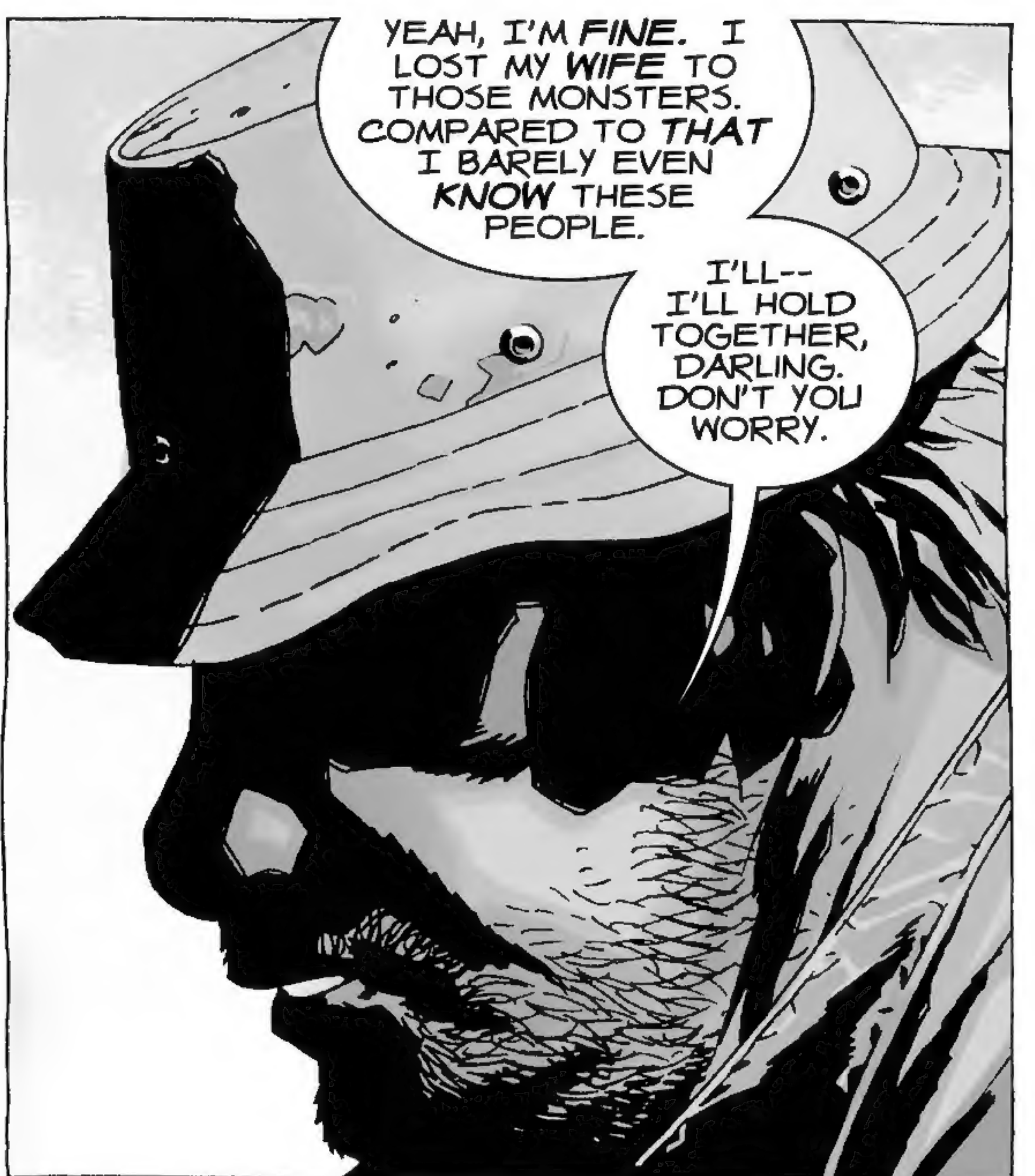


YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY, RIGHT? IF THEY *DON'T* COME BACK, I MEAN. I'M KINDA DEPENDING ON YOU. THE TWINS, TOO--AND HELL, THE WHOLE GROUP, REALLY.



YEAH, I'M *FINE*. I LOST MY *WIFE* TO THOSE MONSTERS. COMPARED TO *THAT* I BARELY EVEN KNOW THESE PEOPLE.

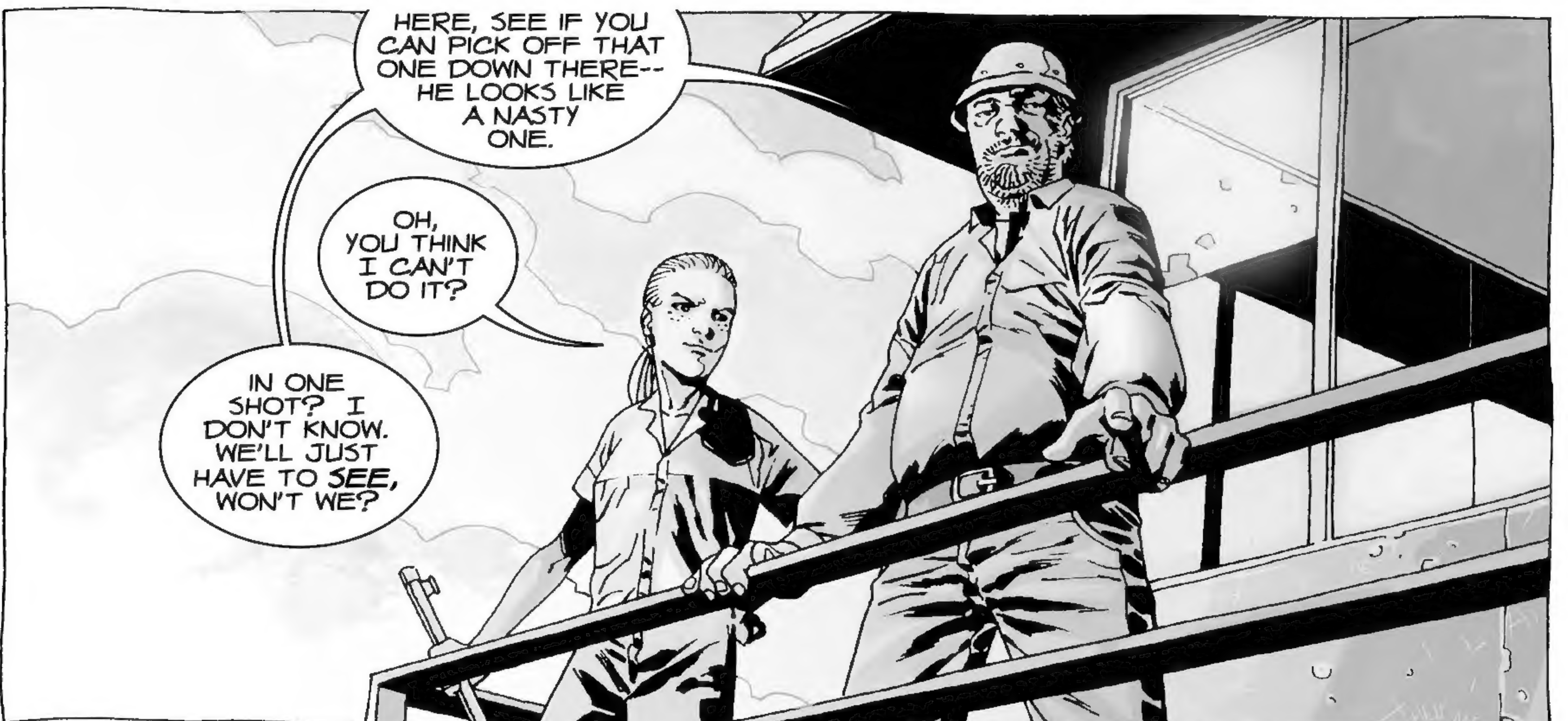
I'LL-- I'LL HOLD TOGETHER, DARLING. DON'T YOU WORRY.



HERE, SEE IF YOU CAN PICK OFF THAT ONE DOWN THERE-- HE LOOKS LIKE A NASTY ONE.

OH, YOU THINK I CAN'T DO IT?

IN ONE SHOT? I DON'T KNOW. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO *SEE*, WON'T WE?



HE GOT **CARROTS** IN THIS HERE GARDEN? I LOVE ME SOME CARROTS.

I THINK HE'S GOT A WHOLE LOTTA STUFF HERE. I WASN'T REALLY PAYING ATTENTION WHEN WE PLANTED THE STUFF. VEGETABLES ARE ALL THE **SAME** TO ME. FRUITS TOO.

I SWEAR I'D HOP THAT FENCE RIGHT NOW IF I KNEW THERE WAS A **CANDY BAR** WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE.

STALE ONES, EVEN.

I COULD GO FOR A CANDY BAR RIGHT ABOUT NOW. I THINK THEY HAD SOME IN THE PRISON BUT AXEL AND THEM **OTHERS** ATE 'EM ALL BEFORE WE SHOWED UP.

FUCKERS.

GIRLS TOO. WE NEED CANDY BARS AND **GIRLS**. AIN'T NEARLY ENOUGH **GIRLS** IN THIS HERE PRISON.

I MEAN--MOST ALL OF THEM ARE SPOKEN FOR. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? AIN'T **NONE** AS YOUNG AS ME NEITHER. YOU THINK **CAROL** WOULD GO FOR ME? NOW THAT HER AND TYREESE ARE DONE?

FUCKERS.

LITTLE BOY LIKE YOU?

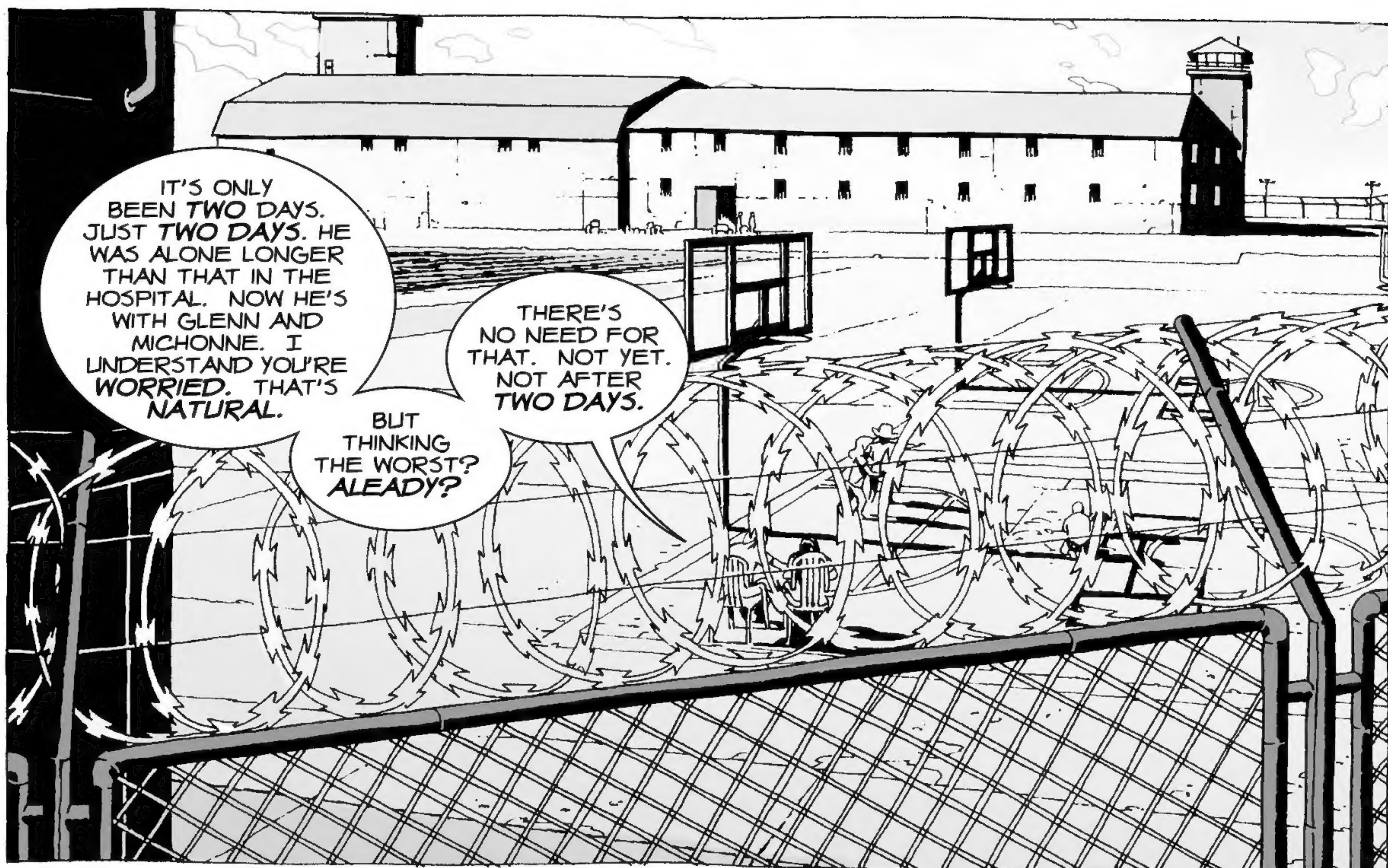
NOT LIKELY.

MAYBE IF I GROW A MUSTACHE...

SURE. THEN, INSTEAD OF LOOKIN' LIKE A LITTLE BOY... YOU'LL LOOK LIKE A LITTLE BOY...

WITH A **MUSTACHE**.

'SIDES, YOU BEEN NURSIN' THAT STUBBLE FOR MONTHS, HOW YOU EXPECT TO TURN THAT INTO A **MUSTACHE**?



IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS. JUST TWO DAYS. HE WAS ALONE LONGER THAN THAT IN THE HOSPITAL. NOW HE'S WITH GLENN AND MICHONNE. I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE WORRIED. THAT'S NATURAL.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT. NOT YET. NOT AFTER TWO DAYS.

BUT THINKING THE WORST? ALREADY?

ARE YOU SERIOUS? IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS? OUT THERE?! RICK WAS IN A HOSPITAL ROOM BY HIMSELF BEFORE. NOW HE'S OUT THERE.

TWO DAYS MIGHT AS WELL BE TWO YEARS.

I'M FREAKING OUT HERE!



DON'T FORGET THAT HE'S WITH MICHONNE-- SHE SURVIVED ON HER OWN OUT THERE FOR MONTHS. I--

I'M SORRY, LORI. I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

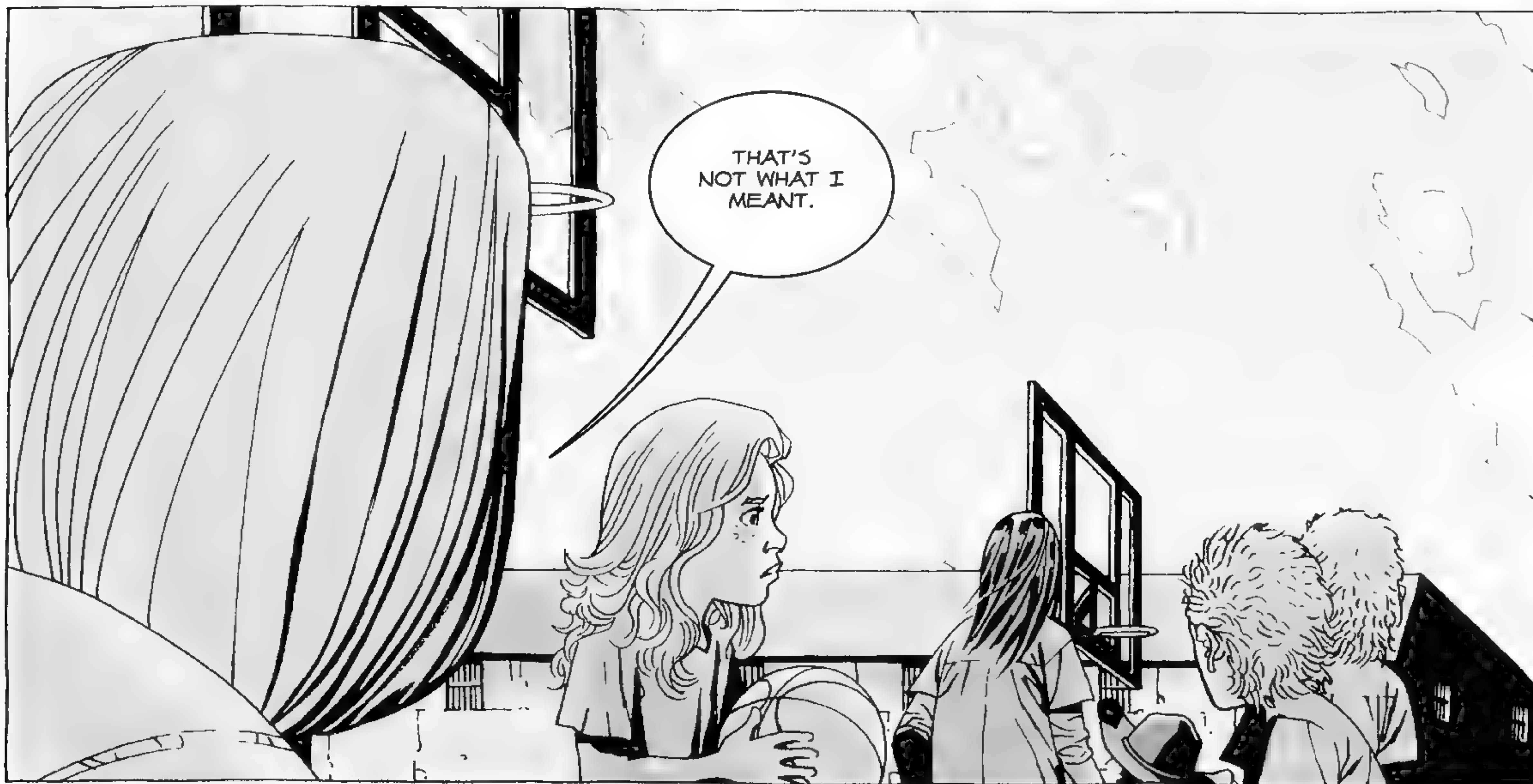


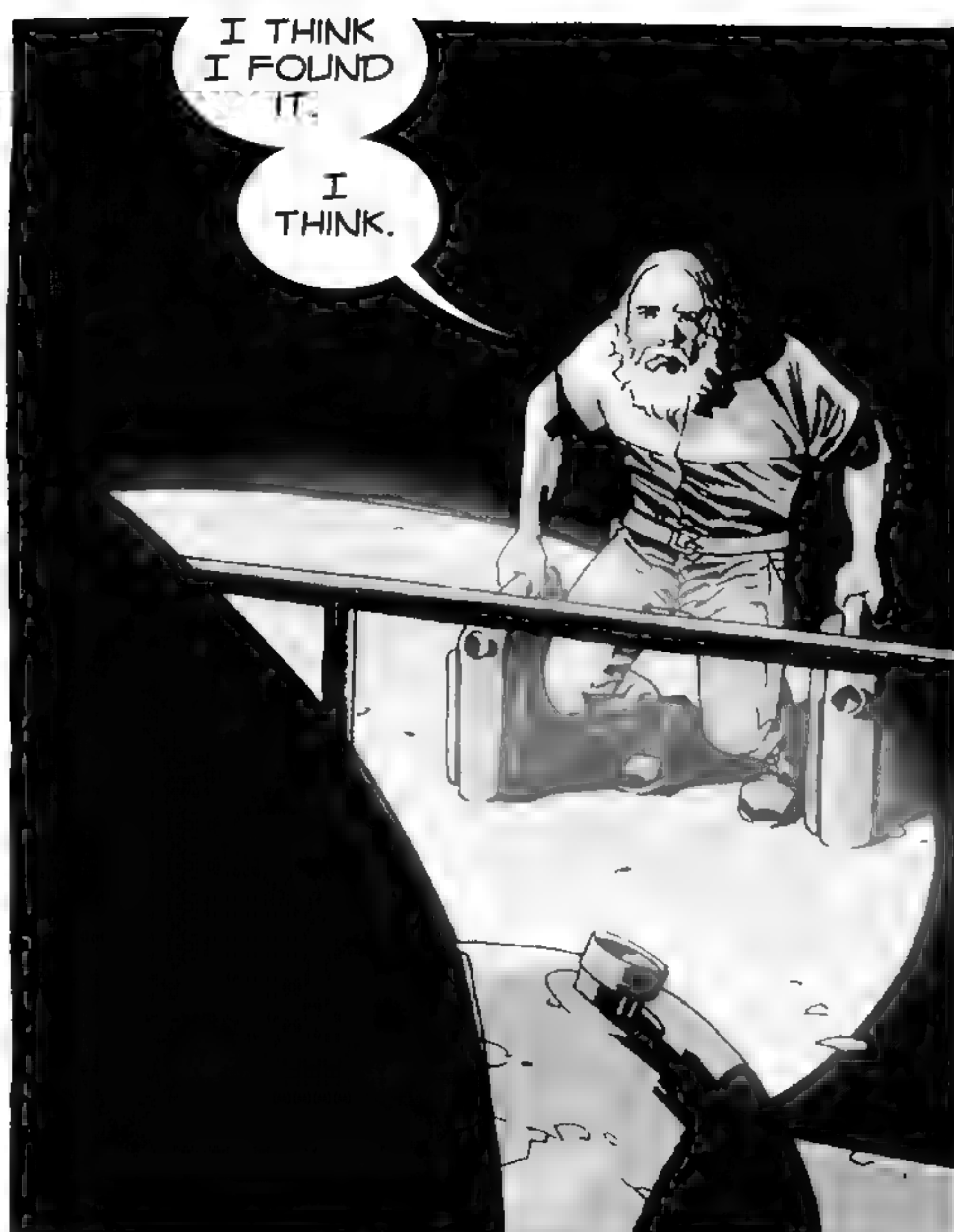
I KNOW YOU ARE. I KNOW. JUST, STOP. IT'S HARD ENOUGH WORRYING ABOUT RAISING CARL AND THIS NEW BABY IN THIS WORLD AS IT IS... WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT DOING IT ALONE.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE.



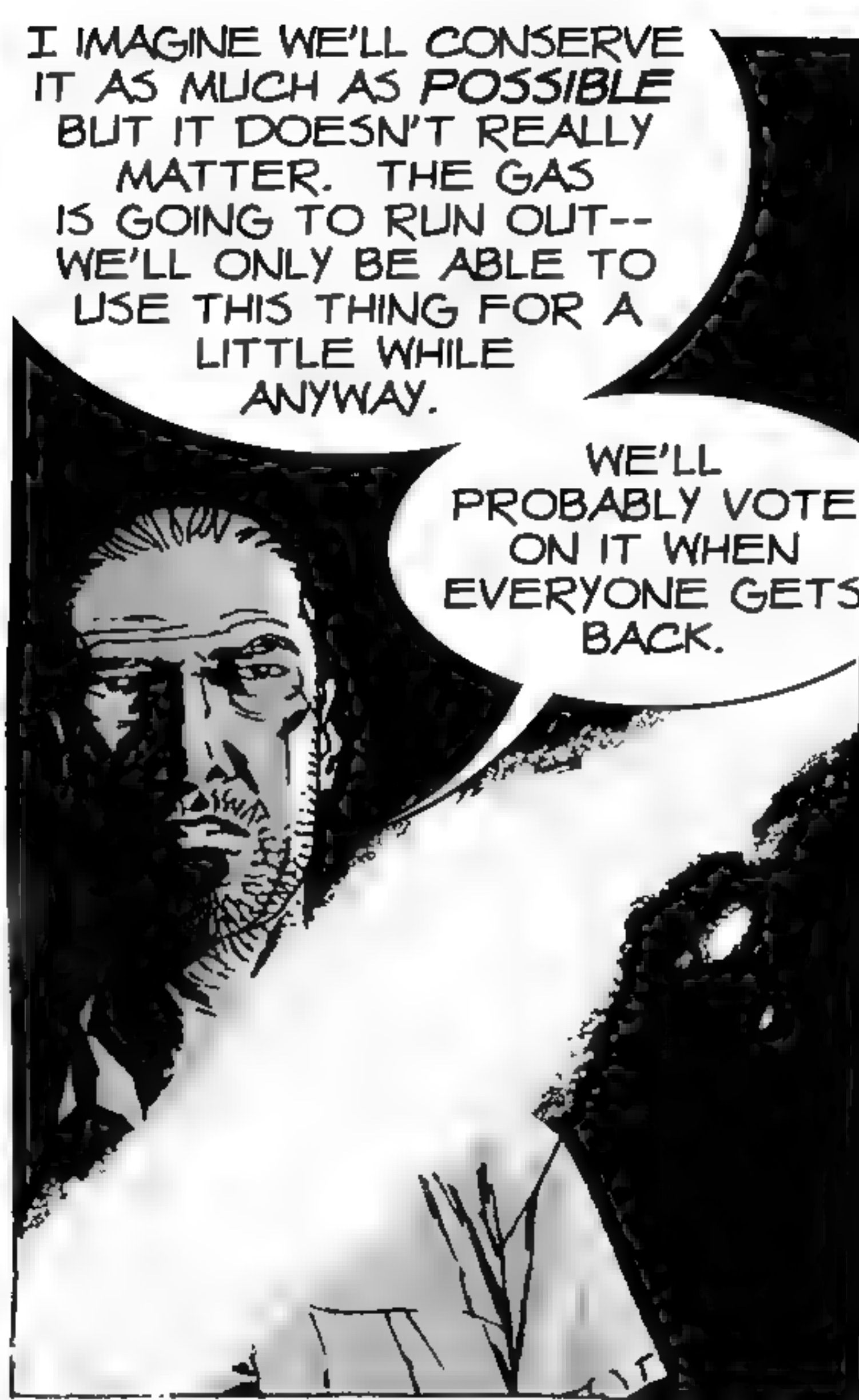






WE GONNA TURN THIS THING ON TONIGHT? IF IT WORKS, I MEAN? YOU FOLLOW ME? WE GONNA TURN IT ON OR ARE WE GOING TO SAVE IT?

WHAT'S THE PLAN?



I IMAGINE WE'LL CONSERVE IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. THE GAS IS GOING TO RUN OUT-- WE'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO USE THIS THING FOR A LITTLE WHILE ANYWAY.

WE'LL PROBABLY VOTE ON IT WHEN EVERYONE GETS BACK.



IF THEY COME BACK, YOU MEAN.



OH, I'M SORRY, GIRL. I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING. THEY'LL BE BACK--ALL OF THEM.

I'M SURE OF IT.



IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT STUPID, I KNOW IT'S A LONG SHOT. IT'S JUST--NOT FUN TO HEAR.

THAT'S ALL.

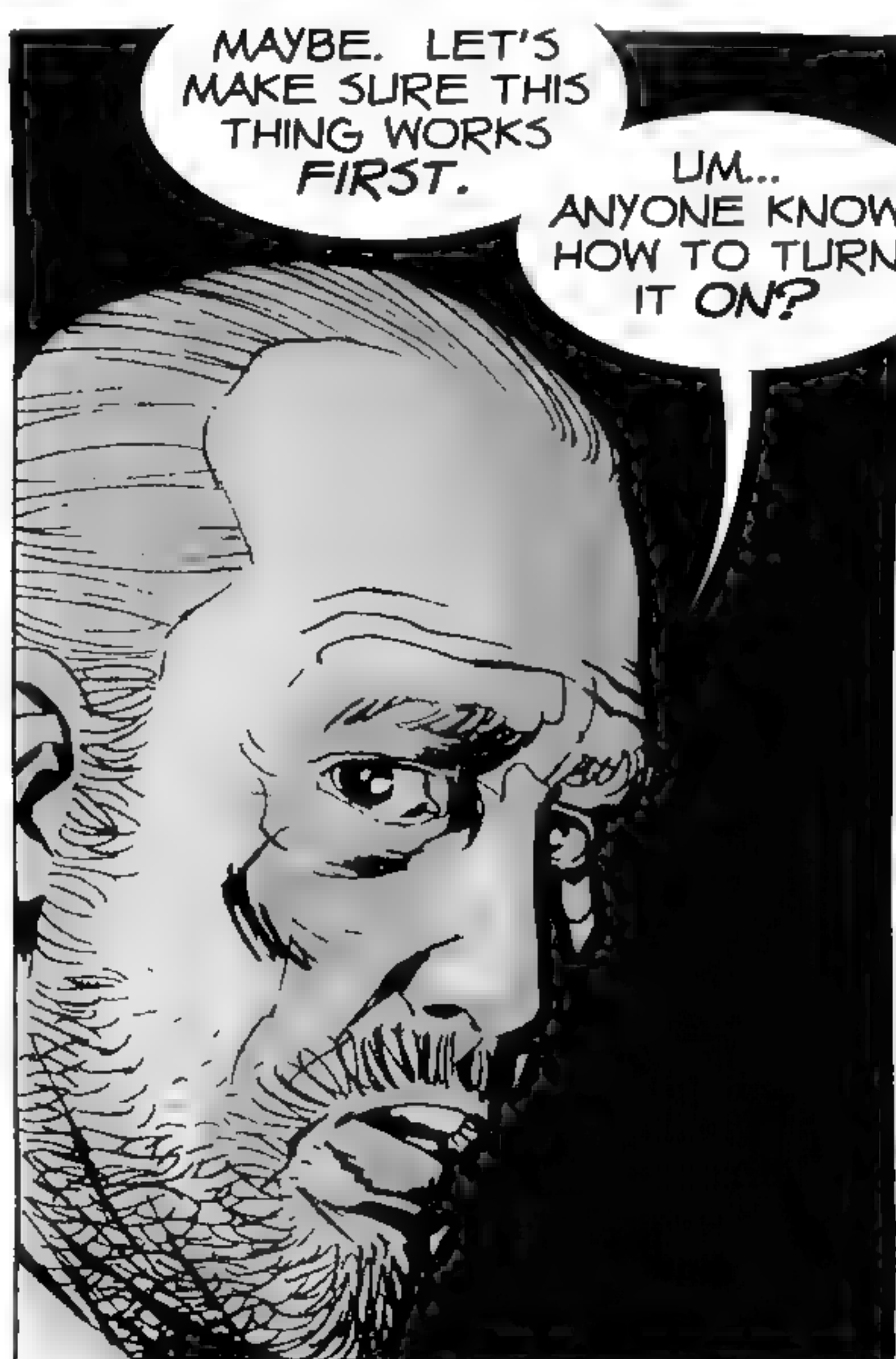


WE'RE ALMOST DONE. LET'S SEE IF THIS THING WORKS AND GET OUT OF HERE.

YOU'LL GET NO COMPLAINTS FROM ME.



MAYBE WE COULD WATCH A MOVIE TONIGHT. THAT'D GET EVERYONE'S MINDS OFF EVERYTHING.



MAYBE. LET'S MAKE SURE THIS THING WORKS FIRST.

UM... ANYONE KNOW HOW TO TURN IT ON?

WHATCHA
READIN'?

MOBY DICK. IT
WAS THE ONLY
ONE I COULD
FIND WITH
PICTURES.

OH,
WAIT--IT'S
YOU.

YEAH, UH... I
WAS KINDA
WANTIN' TO
TALK.

THINK YOU ALREADY TOLD
ME HOW MUCH YOU HATE
ME A FEW WEEKS AGO.
WE AIN'T TALKED
SINCE.

I
HAVEN'T
MISSED
IT.

AW, C'MON, PATRICIA.
I KNOW NOBODY ELSE
REALLY TALKS TO YA.
YOU GOTTA BE GETTIN'
LONELY BY NOW. I
KNOW I WOULD.

I WANTED TO
APOLOGIZE.

I KNOW YA DON'T
WANT TO *BE* WITH
ME ANYMORE--AT
LEAST FOR NOW.
I'M OKAY WITH THAT.
I AM. BUT I THINK
WE COULD STILL
BE *FRIENDS*.

I DON'T MEAN THAT I
CAN'T READ A BOOK
WITHOUT PICTURES. I
CAN. I'M NOT *STUPID*.
I JUST LIKE *LOOKING*
AT STUFF. AIN'T NOTHING
TO LOOK AT BUT WALLS,
FENCES AND *DEAD*
PEOPLE.

FRIENDS?

YEAH, FINE--
WHATEVER.

LIFE'S TOO
SHORT, YA KNOW?
'SPECIALLY NOW.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I JUST WANT
SOMETHING TO
LOOK AT.



WELL GUYS, IF WE CAN GET EVERYONE TO **AGREE** ON A MOVIE--WE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO HAVE A LITTLE THEATRE NIGHT TONIGHT.

I VOTE FOR KINDERGARTEN COP... THAT'S THE ONE WITH THE TUMOR LINE, RIGHT? HEH. "IT'S NOT A TUMOR."

THAT'S THE ONE.

EVERYONE ALWAYS QUOTES THAT LINE--YOU HEAR IT ALL THE TIME. ER--YOU **USED** TO AT LEAST. BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT MOVIE.

IT AIN'T BAD.

I'M **SURE** I'LL HATE IT--BUT I LOOKED IN THE LIBRARY AND THERE'S JUST NOT MUCH OF A SELECTION. IT'S LIKE EIGHTY PERCENT COMEDIES--AND **BAD** ONES AT THAT.

LET'S JUST GET THESE CANS BACK INTO THE GARAGE-- THEN WE CAN START A BIG FIGHT OVER WHAT MOVIE EVERYONE WANTS TO WATCH.

THAT'LL TAKE OUR MINDS OFF ALL THE BULLSHIT THAT'S GOING ON.

INDEED.

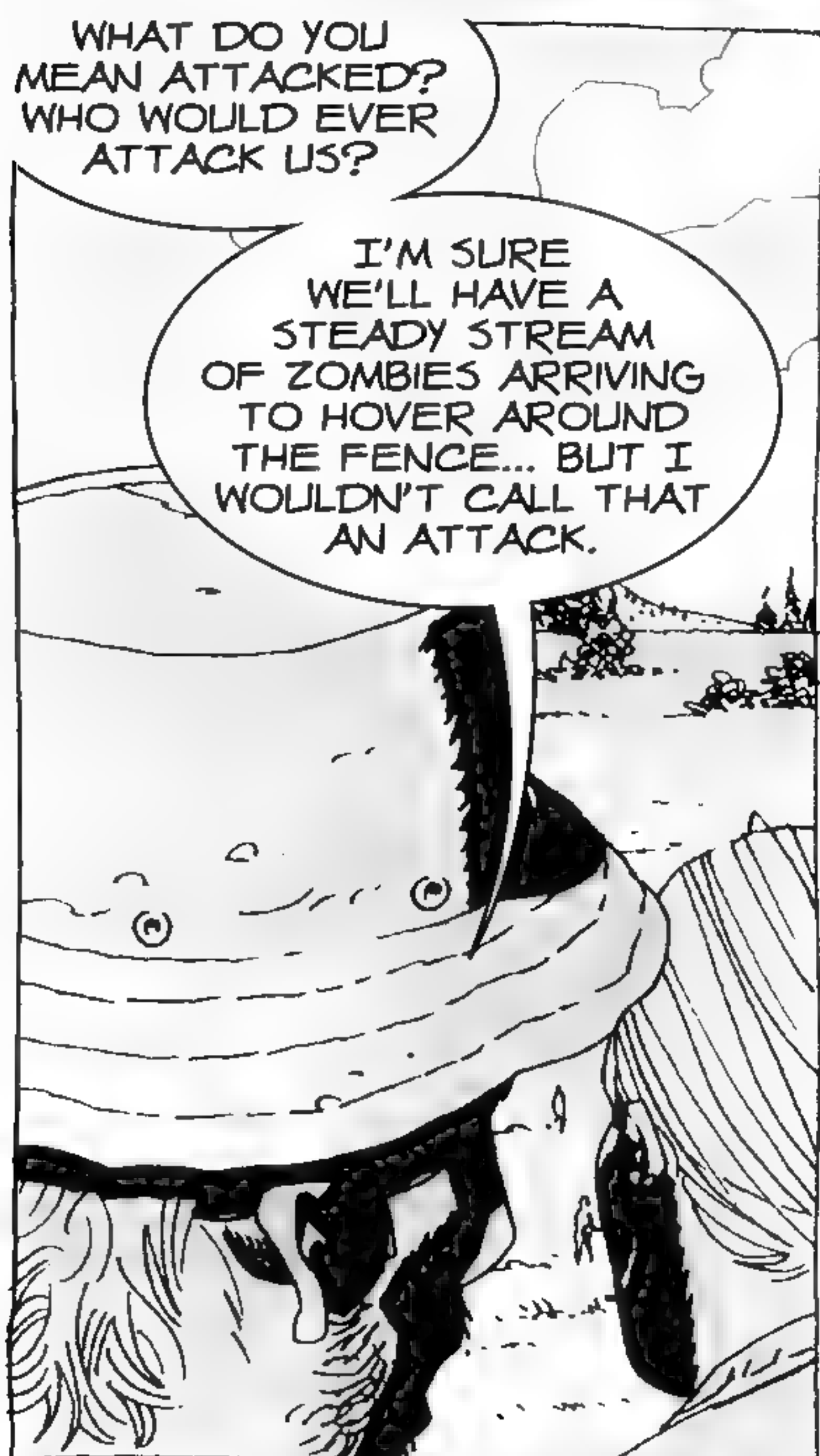


WELL, THIS IS THE LAST ONE. I THINK I'M GOING TO GO DOWN AND GET SOME MORE IN A MINUTE.

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE THE PRACTICE IN, Y'KNOW... JUST IN CASE WE EVER HAVE TO PICK PEOPLE OFF FROM UP HERE...

IF WE WERE EVER TO GET ATTACKED.

ATTACKED?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN ATTACKED? WHO WOULD EVER ATTACK US?

I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE A STEADY STREAM OF ZOMBIES ARRIVING TO HOVER AROUND THE FENCE... BUT I WOULDN'T CALL THAT AN ATTACK.



I DON'T MEAN THE ZOMBIES, DALE. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THIS PLACE LOOKED LIKE FROM THE OUTSIDE? HOW HAPPY WE WERE TO FIND IT?

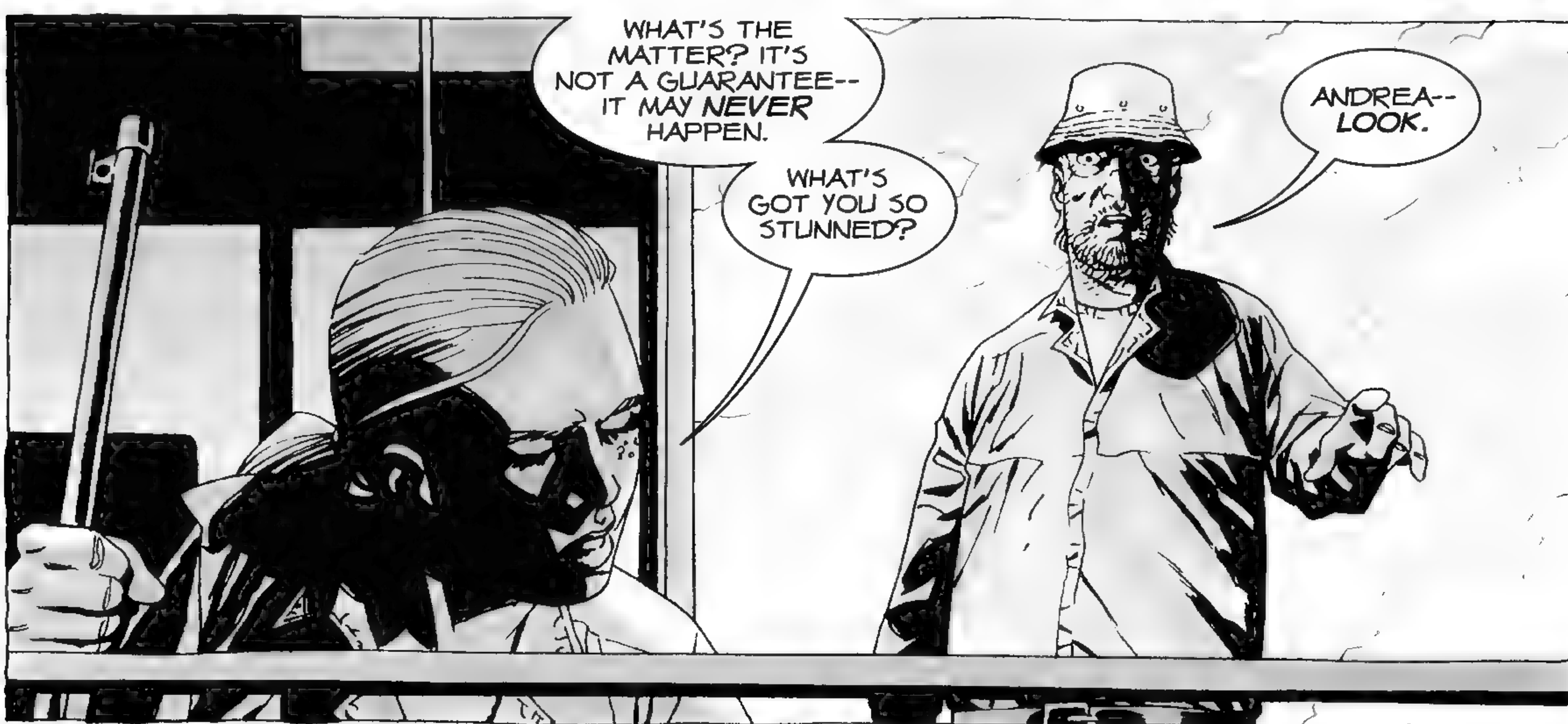
DO YOU THINK WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE OUT HERE--THE ONLY PEOPLE STILL ALIVE? I DOUBT IT.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ANOTHER GROUP SHOWS UP--A BIGGER GROUP. WHAT IF THEY COME AND DON'T WANT TO SHARE?

WHAT THEN?

I'D KINDA LIKE TO BE PREPARED.



WHAT'S THE MATTER? IT'S NOT A GUARANTEE--IT MAY NEVER HAPPEN.

WHAT'S GOT YOU SO STUNNED?

ANDREA--LOOK.





WE GOTTA GET THE GATES OPEN--
HURRY!!

NOW!!
NOW!!



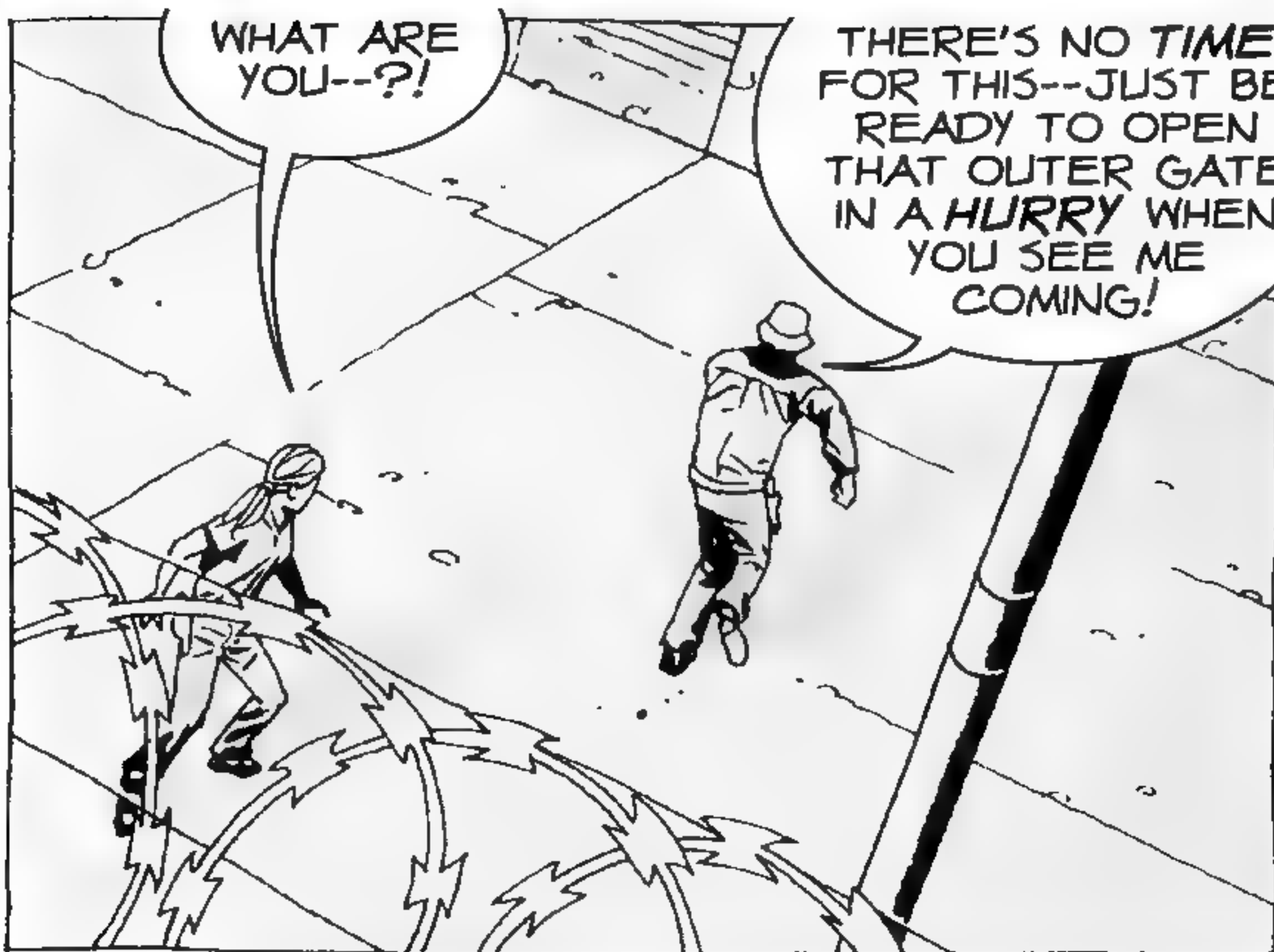
GET THE OTHERS--
WE'VE GOT TO GET
THE ROAMERS OFF
THE GATES SO WE
CAN OPEN THEM--
WE NEED
EVERYONE!

HURRY!!



I'LL GET
EVERYONE!
YOU GO HELP
THEM WITH THE
GATES.

RIGHT!



WHAT ARE
YOU--?!

THERE'S NO TIME
FOR THIS--JUST BE
READY TO OPEN
THAT OUTER GATE
IN A HURRY WHEN
YOU SEE ME
COMING!



ARE THEY BACK?!
IS IT ALL OF THEM?
HOW MANY DID
YOU SEE?!

IT'S
JUST ONE--
WE JUST
SAW ONE OF
THEM.

SO
IT'S--?

WE
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING
YET!



LINGH!!

WHERE
IS--DALE
GOING?!



I DON'T
KNOW!
JUST KEEP
PULLING!



WHY WE--LINGH--
LEAVING ALL THREE
GATES CLOSED?!
ONE WILL DO.



WITH THAT
GENERATOR
GOING--WE
WON'T HAVE
TO DO THIS NO
MORE IT WILL--
WHAT'S
THAT?

YOU
GUYS HEAR
THAT?



HERE HE
COMES--WE'VE
GOTTA GET
THIS LAST
GATE OPEN
NOW!!

HURRY!!





WE'VE GOT TO
GET THESE GATES
CLOSED, PEOPLE!!
WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT
THEM BACK AND
CLOSE THE GATES
OR IT'S ALL
OVER!!



WHERE THE
HELL IS
EVERYONE?!



OH, LORD--WHAT
HAPPENED?!

OH MY
GOD--ARE
YOU OKAY?!



I'M
FINE.

≡HUFF≡

≡HUFF≡

I'M
FINE.

COULDN'T FIND THEM--OR ANY TRACE OF THEM. THEIR CAR GOT STUCK IN THE MUD--I FOLLOWED THEIR TRACKS INTO THE WOODS. LOST THEM IN THERE.

I COULDN'T FIND THEM OR THE HELICOPTER--WRECKED THE BIKE DODGING A ROAMER ON THE ROAD--HAD TO RUN BACK.

SUIT WORKS.

STOP THAT. UNTIL I SEE THEIR BODIES--I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT. I WON'T--I REFUSE.

THEY'RE NOT DEAD.

THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE--SOMEWHERE. I KNOW IT.



WHAT ARE YOU--?

I'VE GOTTA HELP--IF WE DON'T GET THOSE GATES CLOSED--WHEN RICK, GLENN AND MICHONNE GET BACK...

...WE WON'T BE HERE.

C'MON!!

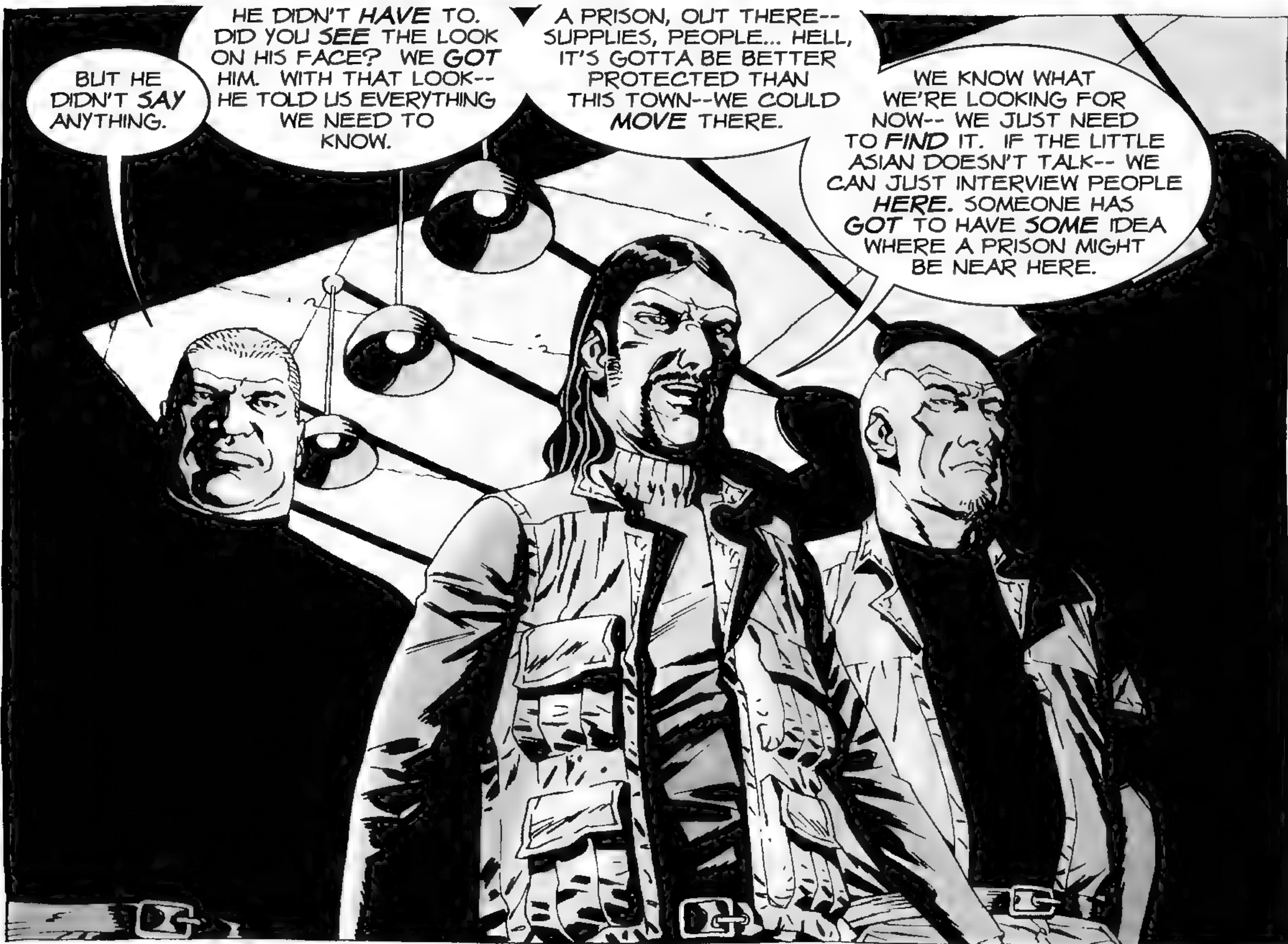


IT DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE IT
WORKED.

SHH.

HE'S JUST
ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THAT
DOOR, IDIOT--HE
COULD HEAR
YOU.

DON'T
WORRY--IT
WORKED.



BUT HE
DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING.

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO.
DID YOU SEE THE LOOK
ON HIS FACE? WE GOT
HIM. WITH THAT LOOK--
HE TOLD US EVERYTHING
WE NEED TO
KNOW.

A PRISON, OUT THERE--
SUPPLIES, PEOPLE... HELL,
IT'S GOTTA BE BETTER
PROTECTED THAN
THIS TOWN--WE COULD
MOVE THERE.

WE KNOW WHAT
WE'RE LOOKING FOR
NOW-- WE JUST NEED
TO FIND IT. IF THE LITTLE
ASIAN DOESN'T TALK-- WE
CAN JUST INTERVIEW PEOPLE
HERE. SOMEONE HAS
GOT TO HAVE SOME IDEA
WHERE A PRISON MIGHT
BE NEAR HERE.



NOW--IT'S
ONLY A
MATTER OF
TIME.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Hidey Ho, girls and boys! Welcome to ye old letters column!

We've got a special treat for you this issue, courtesy of Ed Brubaker, Sean Phillips & Val Staples but I'll get to that at the end of the letters column.

In other news Clayburn Moore is going to be doing some Walking Dead mini-statues of zombies. The first two should be in stores for the Christmas season. I've seen them and they're damn cool. Based on some of Charlie's coolest zombies from the book. I think he's going to do a series of these along with the main statue, so be on the lookout for more news coming soon.

In stores already is The Walking Dead BOOK ONE Hardcover--containing issues 1-12 for the low price of \$29.99. Be sure to pick up your copy today!

Now maybe I should answer some mail. What do YOU think?

Dear Dead Walkers,

I would love to see something like this in the walking dead.

I had a mind opening experience recently the best place any survivor could go is a mountainous old growth forest type region.

For your information I am a gun owner and I recently took a 2 mile vertical hike up a mountain in full tactical gear wielding an AK47, SKS, and a .22 rifle they are all legal of course and in our party I took the AK hehe it was some good endurance training though it took 5 hours round trip just to hike 2 miles up the mountain slope. Gilded with fallen and rotting trees some of which clog up and impede passage up the mountain to the point you have to walk across a log suspended 12 feet in the air held up by several other fallen logs which may extend over 200 feet.

The point is that the time it takes for a person to reach the summit in an area where there are no roads or trails is far more strenuous on the body for a living and a dead person then the areas the story has taken place in.

Frankly if a couple hundred Roamers tried to catch my ass well trying to walk up the steep mountain forest hills I would more then likely just have to sit back and watch em break there necks because there would be so much stuff they would have to jump and walk over just to get 30 feet up that hill that I pretty much could stand to not fire one shot in the process then there is the matter of how many people lived in the surrounding towns prior to the outbreak.

Even if they did manage to find you they would have to somehow develop the agility to walk across fallen logs and then there is the matter of the rotting logs that they may have to pass over well this whole time they are focusing on getting to the meat which is barreling up the hill at due speed so they would eventually end up breaking their legs, necks etc by the hundreds.

So I think it would stand that a centralization of mountain dwellers would stand to be the more effective solution to survivors at least for people in Southern Washington anyways hehe. Just gets me chuckling trying to picture a hoarde of those Mall Rat wannabes trying to get me up there I'd be more worried about mountain lions, and elk cause those boys are nasty.

Finally I'd like to say your drawings of the AK47 were superb the Stocks especially the folding stock AKs in the comic looked very real. Also despite that AK47s normally fire an ammunition type that's normally not found made in the US some are re-chambered to fire an American made cartridge and the AK47 seldom ever jams making it a practically superb gun to have in this situation. I've put at least 2000 rounds through my AK47 and it still works great and never once has jammed up on me although I clean it vigorously after every 100 rounds. My AK 47 has polymer black hand guard cover and the Stock is a Telescopic to adjust to different lengths so it looks more like an M16 as well as sounds since it fires the .223 remington cartridge so its far less recognizable to the untrained eye.

Thank you Sincerely
Epave Omorocva

PS I Know some of my sentences are run ons sorry.

After all this gun talk, I thought about making some snide remark about you loving guns a bit to much. But, y'know... after all this

gun talk, I decided that probably wasn't the best idea.

Good letter.

Mr. Kirkman,

I'm 27 years old and have never written a fan letter to anybody for ANYTHING before, but after reading "Letter Hacks" in issue #27, I finally felt compelled to do so. Simply put -- TWD is awesome. Undeniably cool. In fact, I think its absolutely the best comic out there today, with your INVINCIBLE being a close second. Impeccable combination of story and art in both books. Congrats, some amazing stuff.

The check's in the mail.

I think you're single-handedly, along with your great staff of artists, making Image Comics cutting edge again. You've brought back the energy and excitement that was there when SPAWN and SAVAGE DRAGON debuted and blew everybody's minds. Also, having discovered you through TWD, I've been baffled to find out how many other books you actually write! Jeez! You're a machine! Currently though, I think TWD and INVINCIBLE are your masterpieces.

You didn't like Jubilee? What about Space Ace?

Having said that, and not wanting to belabor an already much-talked about point, I do want to point out that I think I prefer Tony Moore's jaw-dropping detail to Charlie Adlard's looser-yet-still-very-stylish approach. Of course I think Mr. Adlard is extremely talented and I can understand the pressure you guys have to meet deadlines and such, but sometimes I do long for a bit more refinement. I think the book's story and art were on equal footing back in Tony's day, whereas now I think the writing is kind of the main draw. Not really a complaint, just an observation. Hope it doesn't annoy you.

Not at all. You can still get Tony's work over at Exterminators from DC/Vertigo and the first four issues of Fear Agent from Image. I don't agree with you, I think Charlie is doing a fantastic job (and I'm not alone--Eisner nomination and all) but I don't mind you voicing your opinion.

Okay, I guess that's about it. I don't really want to ask you any crazy zombie trivia questions or try to find out what's gonna happen next cause, well...isn't that kind of ruining the surprise? I kind of don't get why people ask that kind of stuff.

Oh shit, wait...I DO have two stupid questions!!

1. If a zombie bit somebody who was smoking weed, would the zombie get stoned? Would the THC be able to do any damage to their already messed up zombie brains?

Actually, if a zombie bites someone who's smoking weed he turns into a toad... until he's kissed by a virgin princess... then he turns into a handsome zombie and she gets genital warts.

2. Have you seen the movie "Grandma's Boy"? It was released in January and kind of came and went pretty quickly. Just wondering cause I directed it and I think you're cool and if you liked it I'd be psyched. If you did see it and hated it -- no hard feelings, I'll still buy your books. If you haven't seen it, it comes out on DVD May 9th. Its basically about video games, grandmothers, and marijuana. Fun for the whole family! Just like your zombie stories!

Best of luck to you sir, please keep up the great work.
Nicholaus Goossen

Heh, really? That's pretty cool. I haven't seen the movie, but I wanted to. I'm a huge Adam Sandler fan, and I was looking forward to seeing the movie that was basically all the guys from his films in a movie by themselves.

Was it any good?

I'll have to check that out. Thanks for writing.

Hey,
Don't know if was intentional, but thanks for the shout out to my hometown of Fayetteville, Georgia on the roadsign in Walking Dead #27. Never thought I'd see it mentioned anywhere in the real world, much less in one of my favorite comic books. It's a shame Rick & company chose Woodbury instead -- Fayetteville definitely would've benefited from the addition of some zombies. Well, besides the ones that already live there and drive SUVs.

Yours,
Josh Hammonds

You can thank the map I referenced for the story to find out what would be where on the street.

Go, Fayetteville.

Hey Mr. Kirkman,

A couple of days after sending you my first fan letter ever, I've been having panic attacks that what I wrote was slightly offensive. I didn't mean to critique Adlard or your book that much. I felt I went a little over the line. Again, I think TWD is the best comic on the planet right now, so....please, don't be pissed or annoyed. Hopefully with all the other letters you get mine will seem tame. I did think my "Can a zombie get stoned?" question was kinda funny though.

Thanks again.
Nicholaus Goossen

No worries, mister Hollywood movie director. I wasn't offended at all. Charlie on the other hand, burnt all his copies of the Grandma's Boy DVD... he owned six copies... he loved that movie... until you wrote your letter.

Hi, Kirkman!

I just finished issue 27. A bit of a slow issue, but clearly building to something more. The governor almost got me thinking he was all right, but something always seemed a bit odd about this new groups, which was finally confirmed on the last page. I don't understand why they would have a bunch of biters around their fighting arena... If it's just people fighting, what's the point of the biters? Maybe we'll see the fight next issue and it'll be more clear... And I really liked how the new people have a different name for the zombies than the rest of the characters. Nice attention to detail there!

I'm trying. I think by now you know why the zombies are there-- to make the fights more intense!

One thing I don't get is how the people in the jail never noticed this town before. If they've been having these fights at night with their big lights on, wouldn't our regular crew in the prison see the glow in the distance and try to go investigate it? With no light anywhere else in the area, I'd think the lights would be easy to see, even from a few miles away...

There are some large wooded areas in-between them... and they're about four miles away if I recall... it's feasible they didn't see them.

I guess I don't have much to say this time, but thanks for another nice issue. Seems like we should get some nice action in the next couple issues when Tyreese and the rest try to find out what happened to Rick, Michonne, and Glenn.

Jim Amato

I hope we didn't let you down in the action department.

One more thing I forgot... I'm amazed at how many people seem to not read your letters page. Fans are always clamoring for letters to be printed in comics, but when someone finally does it, they don't even read them! I was shocked how many letters you got from people that sounded like they just realized the title of the book wasn't about the zombies after all. How many times did you tell us that in your letters page?!? Well, I for one, read every letter you print! It takes me a hell of a long time, but I really enjoy reading them all.

Thanks,
Jim Amato

Thanks, sometimes I feel like I write these things for NOTHING. I do know a good bit of people read them though... so it's okay.

Mr. Kirkman,

The following is a short list of comments to both you, and the readers of The Walking Dead:

#1) The Walking Dead is the best comics in the market today. Great story, great art, no ads, and no bullshit alt/exclusive covers. It's almost perfect. I will continue to buy and read TWD until its end. Keep up the good work.

#2) The only complaint I have is the about the late TWD books. I know you're a busy man, but you've developed a huge fan following for TWD (myself included) who get very disappointed when an issue arrives on stands weeks after its due. Although I will admit that the wait makes the book twice as satisfying to read, I would still like to see the book get back on schedule as long as there is no quality lost to do so.

We're getting on time, don't worry.

This ones for the readers:

#3) Dear Readers of TWD, STOP TELLING ROBERT WHAT HE SHOULD/ SHOULDN'T DO IN HIS OWN BOOK! If he wanted suggestions of what to do next, he'd ask. Go write your own fucking book. If Robert wants them to stay in the prison, then they're staying in the prison. If Robert doesn't want zombie animals, then there's not going to be any. If Robert doesn't want to reveal how the zombie virus started, then its never going to be revealed. If Robert doesn't want Duane and Morgan to show up again, then they will never show up. Robert has done an excellent job on this book WITHOUT your help, so lets let him continue. Just read the damn book and enjoy it.

one (possibly dumb) question:

#4) How far ahead do you have TWD written? Up to issue 36? 50? 250?

Thus ends my list. Please be so kind as to print this letter in a future issue.

Thanks,
JAKEtheSNAKE

I'm usually barely an issue ahead of Charlie script wise. Over the next year I'm going to try to get a little further ahead. I've got the book plotted FAR past that... but scripting... I'm writing 35 when he finishes 34 and so on.

Well, I'm trying to send an email to you to see if I'm any more successful in getting it printed than the hand written one that I sent to you that took a long time to write. Maybe I shoudln't have bashed bendis in that letter after all, jeez I didn't know he was your buddy.

You kidding? I HATE Bendis.

I've stated here before that I don't have an intern or anything and I DO NOT have time to retype hand written or typed mailed-in fan letters... so I just don't print them. I read them... but I just don't have the resources to print them. Thanks for emailing this one.

Anyway, I'm loving this current arc of the series very much. It was afraid Glenn (who by far is the most likeable character in the book) was gonna bite it at any moment. The tension was palpable. Please don't kill him, please! And can't wait to see if they force rick or glenn to fight the zombies in their swat outfit! Poor guys.

Only time will tell.

So, I'm loving the book, and loved what you did with Marvel Zombies. Great covers, great art, great ending! Man this was a great story for you. A friend of mine suggested that it could have been three issues, but I disagree. Just right amount of length, and that ending was totally awesome. Which was your favorite cover so far? I can't wait to get that FF #1 cover.

My favorite was the X-Men #1 cover. That book had my favorite ending that I've written... I was really proud of how I ended that mini. Some people didn't like the ending... and I think those people have no SOUL.

After picking that up, I decided to finally read invincible and bought the hardcover to volume 1. Awesome. Love it, especially Atom Eve. Please get Clay Moore to do a sculpt of her (oh, and I'm extremely excited about him doing a walking dead statue, made my day). I'm already committed to buying that awesome Invincible statue. And then I went out and bought Marvel Team Up vol 1 tbp. Good clean fun. Yeah, not the greatest stuff, but I liked it, and will pick up the rest. Now all I gotta do is pick up Marvel Knights 2099 trade, and didn't you do FF: Foes?

Yes, I did all that stuff. Thanks for the purchases.

Finally, please let us know before hand about anything like the Image Holiday Special story. I had no clue you had a walking dead story, and need to buy it now. I bought the Deluxe hardcover and been loving it man. Great way to read it in extra large pages.

I'm SURE I mentioned that in the letters column. How ELSE would I let you know? You guys really should read this stuff... I can't just call you at home, not ALL of you at least.

Thanks for some great stories, Robert, and I gotta say the Walking Dead is my favorite series of all. Thanks to you I started buying comics again.

Michael
Dallas, TX

Thanks man, it's good to have you.

Letter Hacks,

Zombies, but then, that's not really what the book is about is it? That's just the setting, that's part of the pitch. It allows the human psyche to be examined, for a bunch of chit chat and human drama. But hey, it's cool, there's zombies!

Did I mention Kirkman sucks? No, must have been a letter to Invincible. Hadn't written any letters in a while, the books have been too damn good. Changes in artistic teams didn't matter, Kirkman's stories were just too good. And heck, the new artists rock. Yes they do. And Kirkman doesn't suck at all!

But specifically, Walking Dead. The book is consistent, the drama feels very real and you get lost in the book during the time you are reading an issue. It's kind of disappointing when, having read it, you look at your pile of comics (if you're lucky to have that many GOOD comics) and know that there's nothing in the batch like it.

Sure there are plenty of comics aping Bendis and having the characters yap more than they do anything else, but that's not what Walking Dead is about. You just don't get the same satisfaction anywhere else.

There's always action and what's different is that you see the characters often at a loss as to what to do next. That decision is an important one given their predicament. And it's always given to us straight as they - like we would - try to figure out solutions given the resources at hand and the risk to them.

What a cool, often deep read.

Regards,
Thad Branco

Thanks for the kind words.

Dear Robert,
I love your book and I believe in one of your letter pages you wrote that Charlie sold some of the pages of original art. I was just wondering if he has some to sell or if he sells them through a website of some sort. I'm trying not to be picky, but I would love to have one of them with Rick and a zombie on one and they wouldn't have to be on the same panel necessary. There's no rush I know your busy writing all of those books, so whenever you get time to find out or tell Charlie to contact me. I would appreciate it.

Thank You for your time
Cary Shenk

Charlie Adlard's original art can be purchased at WWW.SPLASHPAGEART.COM at some fairly reasonable prices.

Hey,

Just finished reading issue 27. Quite a lot happening there. One thing did bother me though. Why doesn't Rick, Michonne, or even Glenn say "Hey, what if these people aren't friendly? Maybe we shouldn't be chasing after them.." When they meet these people, I half expected one of them to just start spilling everything about their camp at the prison, which fortunately Michonne was smart enough to head that off. This kind of makes me wonder though if any of these people ever watched a zombie movie themselves. I don't recall any of them ever referencing any. If I were a survivor in a zombie situation I would often be saying things like "This is what they did in Dawn of the Dead." or "Hey, a guy got himself killed like that in 28 days later."

How crappy would this comic be if someone said "Let's be careful, this never worked in Dawn of the Dead." I mean REALLY? So no, nobody in this book as seen a zombie movie, or at least... they don't comment on it. If you were lost in the woods, chased by bears... and you came upon a cabin with smoke coming out of the top, you'd beat on the door and ask for help, glad that you've encountered another human. Is that SAFE? No, but I think 90% of us would just want that human contact and wouldn't really think about the dangers. Same thing here. They haven't encountered any evil humans yet. By nature we do seem to band together in times of great tragedy. It's only natural that what we, from the outside, view as naïve and optimistic is really just human nature.

NEXT time, though... they'll be a little weary of any new humans they encounter--if they survive this one.

Anyways, so I expect Tyreese will be leading some sort of rescue mission in future issues...? I'll be excited to see what happens next. I was worried things were going to get real dull in the prison, though they never really did. The riot suits were a nice touch.

Tyreese went out on his own, for reasons that are yet to be revealed.

BTW, I wrote you guys note once before and you published it. So this is actually not my first time writing to a comic book. It's my second.. and I do not think I am the Greg T. you think I am, but hey s'ok.

Greg T.

How many Greg Thompson's could there be?

Okay, I'm going to forego the usual "shilling session" to talk about someone ELSE'S book. Yeah, I know, I'm as shocked as you guys are... but bear with me here.

Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips are all famous and stuff. You know them, right? They did SLEEPER together over at DC/ WILDSTORM and Ed's gone on to do Daredevil, Captain America and Uncanny X-Men at Marvel. Sean is the brilliant artist who made MARVEL ZOMBIES look so pretty. They're both talented S.O.B.s and they have a new book coming out.

CRIMINAL, I'm told, is along the lines of SLEEPER in tone. It follows the bad guys, the Criminals, as they do Criminal stuff--it's going to be sweet. And they've even got my talented colorist friend Val (Battle Pope, X-Men: Deadly Genesis) Staples on colors. I'm really looking forward to it, so we're running a keen preview here in the book--and in FULL COLOR no less.

But enough from me--lets hear it from the horses mouth himself... Ed Brubaker!

Hey Walking Deadheads, Before I launch into my brief spiel, let me thank Robert Kirkman for opening up his book like this for me, and in color, even. Okay Robert, I'll name my first son Ben Reilly Brubaker, but I still don't understand why... So, the next five pages are what I like to call our movie trailer on paper for CRIMINAL. Imagine all the caption boxes as voice-over dialog and you'll see what I mean... But what else can I tell you about CRIMINAL? That this is the book I've been waiting to do for years and years, for one. I've had most of the stories that'll appear in this comic mapped out for a long time, and have been building bits and pieces of the entire 'world' of the series for a few years now in my notebook. The goal is to create a new kind of crime comic, a book that feels as much like a mood as it does a plot. To show brief glimpses of lives lived underground, on the run from the law. I've always been drawn towards that kind of material. You can see it in much of my work on books like Daredevil, Gotham Central, or Sleeper. But with CRIMINAL, along with the incredibly talented Sean Phillips (who you all know from MARVEL ZOMBIES) and ably assisted by colorist Val Staples, I've created a cast of characters and a book that can contain any kind of story I want to tell with them - from heist stories, to prison breakouts, to revenge dramas, and anything in between. And we're trying to make the monthly comics themselves extra, something worth your money and your time. So, beyond the continuing stories that appear each issue, there will also be back-up stories and extras, articles by myself and other writers about the crime genre, and even the occasional deleted scene. I think it's going to be a blast, and I hope you'll join us for it -- we launch this October, from Marvel's Icon label, so please tell your local retailer and look for us on the shelves.

-Ed Brubaker

Well, I know I'M excited, and if you're not--behold the CRIMINAL PREVIEW starting on the next page. And be sure to PREORDER your copy of CRIMINAL #1, in stores THIS OCTOBER from Marvel's ICON COMICS.

That's it for this month. See you all back here in 30 days or less.

-Robert Kirkman



EMPIRE